



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

Truckee, CA
August 15, 2019

STAFF REPORT: Legislative Update
STAFF: Marivel Barajas, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs
SUBJECT: California Legislation

Summary

This report provides summary excerpts and status of bills that impact the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program. Information contained in this report is accurate as of July 12, 2019.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION UPDATE

Senate Bill 402 (Borgeas): Vehicles: off-highway recreation: County of Inyo.

Summary: This bill would extend the sunset on the Inyo County combined-use highway system pilot project from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2025. Additionally, this bill would require Inyo County, in consultation with the Department, California Highway Patrol, and CalTrans, to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot project, no later than January 1, 2024. This bill would also require Inyo County, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, to report to the Legislature regarding the operation and impacts of the Adventure Trail System combined use highways and adjoining trails, as specified.

Status: Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee – Passed (Ayes:10 Noes:0)
Assembly Transportation Committee – Passed (Ayes:14 Noes:0)
Senate Floor – Passed (Ayes:33 Noes:0)
Senate Appropriations Committee – Passed (Ayes:4 Noes:0)
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee – Passed (Ayes:6 Noes:2)
Senate Transportation Committee – Passed (Ayes:10 Noes:2)

Senate Bill 767 (Glazer): Off-highway vehicular recreation: Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area: Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area.

Summary: This bill would authorize the Department to divest approximately 3,100 acres of land within Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area for conservation purposes if the Department determines, through a public process, that disposal of the land is in the public interest. The bill would require the Department of General Services to be reimbursed for their costs first, and any remaining funding would be deposited into the OHV Trust Fund. This bill would also exempt this transaction from the state's surplus property process.

Status: Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee – Passed (Ayes:4 Noes:2)
Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee – Passed (Ayes:9 Noes:4)
Senate Floor – Passed (Ayes:28 Noes:10)
Senate Appropriations Committee – Passed (Ayes:4 Noes:2)
Senate Appropriations Committee – Passed (Ayes:5 Noes:0)
Senate Governmental Organization Committee – Passed (Ayes:10 Noes:3)
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee – Passed (Ayes:6 Noes:2)

Senate Bill 785 (Committee on Natural Resources and Water): Public resources: parklands, freshwater resources, and coastal resources: off-highway motor vehicles: public lands.

Summary: This committee omnibus bill contains the following provisions affecting the Department: 1) would authorize the Department to grant permits and easements for bicycle and pedestrian trails on State Parks property; 2) would clarify the definition of public lands where certain off-highway vehicles are allowed to operate; and 3) would authorize a land-swap between San Diego County, the San Diego County Water Authority, and CalTrans, if specified conditions are met.

Status: Assembly Natural Resources Committee – Passed (Ayes:11 Noes:0)
Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee – Passed (Ayes:13 Noes:0)
Senate Floor – Passed (Ayes:38 Noes:10)
Senate Appropriations Committee – Passed (Ayes:6 Noes:0)
Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing – Passed (Ayes:5 Noes:0)
Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee – Passed (Ayes:9 Noes:0)

2019 - 2020 116th US CONGRESS FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

S. 1109 (Harris): San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act

Summary: This bill would establish the San Gabriel National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System in California.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would establish a 22-member Advisory Council to include two members that would represent the interests of outdoor recreation, including off-highway vehicle recreation, within the San Gabriel National Recreation Area.

Status: 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S. 1110 (Harris): Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act

Summary: This bill contains provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, conservation, and recreational access to specified public lands in Northern California.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would designate the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail in Del Norte County for off-highway vehicle or mountain bike usage. The bill would additionally require the Secretary of the Interior to annually assess the effects of off-highway vehicle and mountain bicycle use on the trail, land in close proximity to the trail, as well as plants, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Status: 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S. 1111 (Harris): Central Coast Heritage Protection Act

Summary: This bill would designate specified parcels of land in the Los Padres National Forest and the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management as wilderness areas.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would require that not later than six years after the date of enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service) shall study the feasibility of opening a new trail, for vehicles measuring 50 inches or less, connecting Forest Service Highway 95 to the existing off-highway vehicle trail system, in the Ballinger Canyon off-highway vehicle area.

Status: 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

H.R. 316 (LaMalfa): Guides and Outfitters Act

Summary: This bill would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to allow the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue special recreation permits and fees for off-highway vehicle use on certain federal recreational lands, as defined. This bill is the successor to H.R. 289 of the 2017-2019 session.

Status: 2/07/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry

H.R. 403 (Panetta): Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act

Summary: This bill would establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties to promote environmentally responsible off-highway vehicle recreation and to support other recreational uses. This bill would direct the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to designate 21,000 acres of land adjacent to Clear Creek as wilderness and would name this area, "Joaquin Rocks Wilderness". The bill would also reopen the 63,000-acre Clear Creek Management Area for public outdoor recreation, including off-road vehicles and hiking. This bill requires BLM to develop a plan including educating visitors about the hazards of asbestos. This bill is a reintroduction of H.R. 1913 from the 2017-2018 session.

Status: 2/05/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

H.R. 2250 (Huffman): Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act

Summary: This bill contains provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, conservation, and recreational access to specified public lands in Northern California.

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would designate the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail in Del Norte County for off-highway vehicle or mountain bike usage. The bill would additionally require the Secretary to annually assess the effects of off-highway vehicle and mountain bicycle use on the trail, land in close proximity to the trail, as well as plants, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Status: 4/24/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments